

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure including an absorbent core;

a side flap laterally extending from a side edge of said absorbent core;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion ~~for getting in contact with~~ adapted to contact a wearer's leg; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's leg when ~~[[a]]~~ the wearer wears said article, wherein

said free portion has a base line on said side flap, and comprises a standing portion extending from the base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article, a contacting portion, adapted to contact the wearer's leg, extending from the standing portion, and a folding portion between the standing portion and the contacting portion at which the contact portion is folded the free portion, other than the standing portion, folding laterally outward away from the longitudinal centerline at a predetermined folding portion to define a contacting portion for getting in contact with the wearer's leg,

two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of a distal end of said contacting portion so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said folding portion to the distal end of the contacting portion,

two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of a proximal end of said standing portion so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said base line to said folding portion,

at least one said stretching member is arranged in the vicinity of the folding portion, and
~~each of said contacting portion, and standing portion is provided with at least one of said stretching members, and~~

when the wearer wears said article, said standing portion stands in a substantially vertical direction and said standing cuff stands toward the wearer's leg due to the stretching force of the stretching members, while the side flap between the side edge of the absorbent core and the base line is deformed.

27. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:
an absorbent structure including an absorbent core, said absorbent structure being disposed between a liquid pervious sheet and a liquid impervious sheet;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion ~~for getting in contact with~~ adapted to contact a wearer's leg; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's leg when ~~[[a]]~~ the wearer wears said article, wherein

said liquid impervious sheet ~~outwardly~~ extends outwardly beyond a side edge of said absorbent core to form a side flap,

said free portion has a base line on said side flap, and comprises a standing portion extending from the base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article along a surface of said article including said liquid pervious sheet, a contacting portion, adapted to contact the

wearer's leg, extending from the standing portion, and a folding portion between the standing portion and the contacting portion at which the contacting portion is folded ~~the free portion, other than the standing portion, folding~~ laterally outward away from the longitudinal centerline at a ~~predetermined folding portion to define a contacting portion for getting in contact with the~~ wearer's leg,

two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of a distal end of said contacting portion so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said folding portion to the distal end of the contracting portion,

two or more said stretching members are arranged in the vicinity of a proximal end of said standing portion so as to be spaced from each other in a direction from said base line to said folding portion,

at least one said stretching member is arranged in the vicinity of the folding portion, and
~~each of said contacting portion, and standing portion is provided with at least one of said stretching members, and~~

when the wearer wears said article, said standing portion stands in a substantially vertical direction and said standing cuff stands toward the wearer's leg due to the stretching force of the stretching members, while the side flap between the side edge of the absorbent core and the base line is deformed.

28. (Previously Presented) The disposal absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein at a front end portion and at a back end portion in a longitudinal direction of said article, said standing portion is fixed on the article, and said contacting portion is fixed on said standing portion.

Claims 29-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure;

a side flap laterally extending from a side edge of said absorbent structure;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion ~~for getting in contact with~~ adapted to contact a wearer, said free portion having a base line on said side flap, comprising a two-layer sheet and a water proof sheet disposed between layers of the two-layer sheet, and extending from said base line toward a longitudinal centerline of said article; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer when the wearer wears said article, said stretching members being arranged in the vicinity of a distal end of said free portion and in the vicinity of said base line ~~at least one of said stretching members extending along a distal edge of said free portion, and another extending between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion,~~ wherein

an effective stretching length of said stretching member arranged in the vicinity of said base line ~~is extending between said base line and said longitudinal centerline of said free portion~~ are shorter than that of said stretching member arranged in the vicinity of the distal end ~~extending along the distal edge~~ of said free portion, wherein

when the elongation of a portion in the vicinity of the distal end of said free portion is 60 % to 150 %, the stretching stress of said portion is 0.10 N to 1.30 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm),

when the elongation of a portion in the vicinity of said base line is 60% to 150%, the stretching stress of said portion is 0.20 N to 2.00 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm), and

said stretching stress of said latter portion is greater than that of said former portion, wherein

in the side view of the article, the standing cuff stands so as to form a sector shape in its freely contracted state, and

when the wearer wears the article, the distal edge of the standing cuff does not stand vertically and is brought into contact with low pressure at its front and back end-sides, while the distal edge of the standing cuff stands almost vertically and is brought into contact with relatively high pressure at its laterally central portion so that a side-leakage at a longitudinally central portion of the distal edge of the standing cuff in particular can be coped with adequately.

33. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 32, wherein the height of said free portion is at least 10 mm.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:
an absorbent structure including an absorbent core;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion ~~for getting in contact with~~ adapted to contact a wearer, said free portion having a base line from which said free portion extends, said base line extending along a longitudinal end of said absorbent structure;

one or more first stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer when the wearer wears said article; and

second stretching member for deforming said longitudinal end of said absorbent structure, said second stretching member provided between the base line of said at least one standing cuff and ~~[[the]]~~ a longitudinal centerline of said article; and

stretching members for lifting being longitudinally fixed along the opposite sides of the absorbent structure and laterally inboard with respect to the base lines for the standing cuffs.

37. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein a plane-gathering cuff is provided outboard with respect to said standing cuff.

38. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein a plane-gathering cuff is not provided outboard with respect to said standing cuff.

39. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:
an absorbent structure including an absorbent core, said absorbent structure being disposed between a liquid pervious sheet and a liquid impervious sheet, said liquid pervious sheet ~~longitudinally~~ extending in a longitudinal direction beyond said absorbent structure to form a waist flap;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion ~~for getting in contact with~~ adapted to contact a wearer's waist, said free portion comprising a sheet separately provided on said waist flap, having a base line extending on said waist flap in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction, and extending from said base line along the liquid pervious sheet, said free portion comprising a two-layer sheet and a water proof sheet disposed between layers of the two-layer sheet; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands over said absorbent structure to ~~get in~~ contact ~~[[with]]~~ the wearer's waist when ~~[[a]]~~ the wearer wears said article, at least one of said stretching members extending along a distal edge of said free portion, and another extending between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion, wherein

said stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion has contraction force stronger than that of said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein said free portion of said standing cuff has the longitudinal length of at least 10 mm.

42. (Currently Amended) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein

when the elongation of a portion provided with said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion is 20 % to 90 %, [[the]] a stretching stress of said portion is 0.05 N to 1.00 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm),

when the elongation of a portion provided with the stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion is 20 % to 90 %, the stretching stress of said portion is 0.10 N to 1.50 N (per the width of 15 mm and the length of 100 mm), and

said stretching stress of said latter portion is larger than that of said former portion.

43. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein

said standing cuff further comprises a fixed portion extending from said base line to a predetermined location for fixing said standing cuff on said waist flap,

a distance between said predetermined location and an end of said waist flap is from 1 mm to 40 mm.

44. (Previously Presented) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 39, wherein

the sheet of said free portion is a two-layer sheet, and

said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion and said stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion are fixed between layers of the two-layer-sheet.

45. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

an absorbent structure;

at least one standing cuff having a free portion ~~for getting in contact with~~ adapted to contact a wearer's waist, said free portion having a base line, extending along an edge of said absorbent structure in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said absorbent structure, from which said free portion extends, said free portion comprising a two-layer sheet and a water proof sheet disposed between layers of the two-layer sheet; and

stretching members for applying stretching force to said free portion so that said free portion stands toward the wearer's waist when ~~[[a]]~~ the wearer wears said article, at least one of said stretching members extending along a distal edge of said free portion and another extending between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion, respectively.

46. (Previously Presented) The disposal absorbent article as defined in Claim 45, wherein the stretching member extending between the base line and the longitudinal centerline of said free portion has contraction force stronger than that of said stretching member extending along the distal edge of said free portion.

47. (Previously Presented) The disposal absorbent article as defined in Claim 36, wherein at least one of said first stretching members is arranged to extend along a distal edge of said free portion, and another is arranged to extend between said base line and a longitudinal centerline of said free portion.

48. (New) The disposable absorbent article as defined in Claim 26, wherein said folding portion is located outside of an area over absorbed core.